RAPID TRANSIT IN LONDON.

AMERICANS MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE FIRST EXPERIMENT

The "Tuppenny Tube" Is Popular-Mr. Charles T. Yerkes Buys a Franchise for Another Underground Line and Plans a Trunk System to Relieve the Congested London Streets

LONDON, Sept. 28.—"Rapid transit" has been thousand large towns in America than China Londoner is satisfied with the means of locumotion which suited the time of his grandfather. Four miles an hour by 'bus or seven or eight by the dirty, suffocating underground have been endured for generations with a patience so perfect that it must pass for content. The moral, of this quarter of a century's halt in the march of progress is beyond computation. The financial and commercial effect is perhaps

more obvious The true raison d'etre of slum life in London, which is notoriously the worst in all civilized countries, is lack of rapid transit. The swarming tenements of Lambeth and Whitechapel would scatter their inhabitant over miles of what are now unoccupied hills and fields south and east of the metropolis if only cheap and rapid means of transportation were provided. Crime would diminish, morals would improve and public health would benefit beyond measure only practical advantage were taken of devices and inventions which are no longer regarded as new in America and Europe. But Englishman if he did, for that is the real essence of English conservatism.

But now a change has come. In two short months this "Tuppenny Tube" has broken Central London Rallway, to give it its proper designation, has been a popular and financial success from the start. It has carried an average of about 100,000 passengers daily since it only six miles long, running east and west from the Bank of England to Shepherd's Bush, just beyond the confines of Kensington It does residential territory available for artisans absorbed most of the travel from one of the | our northern terminus as a common centre. main arteries of London which formerly used the slow and lumbering bus

solution of the rapid transit problem in the near classes, introduced a uniform fare of two pence found no reason thus far for making any change. All London, they say, rides in omnibuses when I rate is the lowest in the world. it cannot afford cabs: why not do the same in a railway carriage, where each passenger has more room than in a bus?

those on the New York elevated roads except are much heavier (forty tons each) than necessary and therefore more expensive than need Is a concession which no Englishman will be deprived of even during a five-minute ride. There smoker. An English smoking carriage is as clean as any other after a journey, except this could easily be accomplished, but as the

invited to bestir himself in the curt language struction. of a New York gateman Heaven forefend! more willingly and graciously than I expected would be the case. There is still much to be gained The trains now stop at stations fully twice as long as in New York, but even this is more than a 50 per cent improvement over the

Tube is doing in London will speedily bear fruit. Already it has intensified the popular disgust toward the old underground to the point of intolerance. The management of the old concern is sufficiently aroused from its lethargy on a half mile of its line. When it got a train actually to run a few weeks ago, it invited the public to come and see and test the wonderful novelty at a shilling a ride! The managers were probably very much grieved and aston-

ished that nobody came The feature of the Tuppenny Tube which makes the average Britisher a little uneasy and apprehensive is that it is all American, except the tube itself and the money which built and equipped it. Injured pride is the basis of this feeling, but England is fast reconciling herself to the fact that most things electric must come from America. On the no resentment at the announcement made the other day that Mr. Charles T. Yerkes, the greatest of American masters of rapid transit problems, had bought the charter of another prospective electric underground line, which comprehensive manner than the present Tuppenny Tube does east and west. The news indeed has caused great public satisfaction. for Londoners see in it proof that the rapid transit problem of the metropolis is soluble upon sound commercial lines Nobody be-Heves that a shrewd expert judge of the situa-tion would invest \$20,000,000 or \$25,000,000 in a new undertaking of this nature, unless he had good reason to believe the investment would

The announcement of Mr. Yerkes's purchase was premature, for the transaction was not finally signed. In buying this franchise for an underground electric road, Mr. Yerkes is developing what he regards as only the second best plan for the development of London by means of rapid transit. The true solution of the problem, he believes, lies in the introduc-tion of surface electric lines throughout the metropolis, according to the general plan which he made such an enormous success of in Chicago. But Mr. Yerkes knows that any atduction of such a radical innovation in London is hopeless at the present day, and he bows to ever, are of great interest and importance, and he has been good enough to allow me to

he had on his candidate. It was my first experience them.

"It would be entirely feasible to introduce electric lines with the centre-pole trolley system into the principal streets of London and the immediate and future benefit to the city would be incalculable. It is objected to on all sides by Londoners that the streets are too narrow, and too crowded with traffic, but there are plenty of broad streets available. The Strand is the most congested thoroughfare in the city, but it is not so badly crowded as was Broadway. New York, before the introduction of the street car line there. To cross Broadway twenty-five years ago was a serious Broadway twenty-five years ago was a serious danger to life and limb. You may remember that the city built a bridge across for foot passengrs at Fulton street, because accidents became so frequent. It took longer in those days for an omnibus or other vehicle to drive from Bowling Green to Eighth street than for a pedestrian to cover the same digitance. The cars were introduced, the omnibused sappeared and there was a large reduction of the congestion and danger, instead of the aggravation of the evil which many had prophe-

sied. I have watched the traffic in the Strand INDIA STILL IN DISTRESS: many times, and omnibuses and cabs comprise more than three-quarters of it. All the omni buses and many of the cabs would disappear

if tram lines were introduced. "The city as well as individual citizens would profit by the introduction of electric traction. Not only would cheap and comparatively rapid transportation be provided, but the public revenues would gain a new and substantial source of income. The omnibuses pay but a meaningless term in the world's metropolis | trifle for their privileges. An electric line until the present year | London has shown no | would not only pay a fair proportion of its regreater desire to secure the boon enjoyed by | ceipts to the local treasuries, but it would light the streets as wel. The central poles would Esplays for the biessings of Christianity The also carry electric lights, as is already done in Chinaman is not anxious to be "saved," and the | many London streets, but the company would pay for the light instead of the public. But I am fully aware that these arguments do not yet carry the weight of conviction in London, and I am making no attempt to convince London

Mr. Yerkes first considered the question physical and intellectual effect upon London of engaging in the solution of the London rapid transit problem more than five years ago. Other interests claimed his attention meantime, and it is only recently that he has taken the matter up again. The line which he will build was authorized by Parliament about six years ago, but construction has never been begun, and Mr. Yerkes's purchase virtually secures him nothing but the charter, which grants right of way, &c. Mr. Yerkes's plans, however, are much more comprehensive than the construction of this short underground line. He will endeavor to follow the same broad scheme which has developed the outskirts of Chicago as no other city was ever developed

"We shall build the line," said he in conversation yesterday, "from Charing Cross [the an Englishman will learn by no one's experi- termination of the Southeastern Railway] ence except his own. He would not be an almost due north to Hampstead, with connections to Euston [the London and Northwestern terminal). Paddington [the Great Western terminal) and perhaps to Victoria (the station of the London. Brighton and South down the prejudices of generations. The Coast and the London, Chatham and Dover lines. The construction and equipment will be of the same general design as those of the new Central London Rallway There will also be a connecting station with the latter was opened scarcely two months ago. It is line. But in doing this we provide only what we hope will prove to be the trunk line of a system of subarban rapid transit. My chief desire is to bring a large territory north of little or nothing toward the solution of the | London within easy residential distance of overcrowding problem, for it opens no new London workers of all classes. To accomplish this we shall seek to provide surface electric and others of small means. It has simply lines radiating in all directions fan-like from

"It is this plan which has been the main feature and the most successful one of our The "Tuppenny Tube" has, however, intro- Chicago system. We opened up the prairie duced successfully several important innova-tions which point directly to the successful Land which before the advent of the trolley lines was sold by the acre was divided up into future. It has abolished compartments and | house lots and sold by the foot as soon as the electric car appeared. Few even among ffour cents) for any distance and accelerated students of municipal life probably appreciate speed to a point within reasonable scope of the the effects of this development. There is to-day term rapid transit. It was considered a rash. no tenement life in Chicago, and Londoners. and doubtful experiment to provide only one will understand what grave evils have been class of accommodation for aristocratic and swept away with the disappearance of that costermongering London. The directors have abnormal manner of existence. The health of Chicago has improved until now its death

The same system of rapid transit would do for London or for any other congested city all that it has done for Chicago The trains are practically identical with I do not contemplate doing for South London or the East End what we are about to underthat they are drawn by electric motors, which take toward the north. One enterprise of this magnitude is sufficient. If it succeeds, the demonstration will speedily bear fruit Half of the ears are "smokers." That and similar facilities will be provided for other quarters of the metropoli

The charter which Mr. Yerkes has purs this to be said, however, on behalf of the | chased requires the completion of the line Englishman and his pipe or cigar-he is a clean within the next two years. If the construction was in the hands of American mechanics perhaps for some dry cigar or cigarette ashes | British workman is a main factor in the maton the floor. In other words, the English- ter it may prove necessary to secure a slight extension of time. Mr. Yerkes will return The most important reform which the Tup- to America on the Deutschland, sailing Oct. peny Tube is introducing is that it is teaching the 13, and he does not expect to spend much time Londoner to "step lively" Not that he is in England while the line is in course of con-

It is, "All out, please," or "Please move up" CHICKEN COOP BURGLAR ALARMS. Electricity Brought to Bear Nowadays for th

Protection of Hen Roosts. You might think," said an electrician, "that burglar alarms are made only for houses and stores and banks, and that sort of thing, but they have nowadays electric burglar alarms made for chicken coops to circumvent the chicken thief. The chicken house is so wired with the help of simple contrivances designed for that purpose that the opening of any door or window in it sets ringing a gong in the owner's house, which is connected with the chicken coop by wire, and the thief can't stop the gong's ringing by shutting the door or window again; it can be shut off in the house only.

'What's to hinder the thief's cutting the wire? Why, nothing, I suppose, if he could find it in the dark, but while these alarms are et up with overhead wires from the coop to the house, they may be connected by wires un-derground, suitable insulated wire being pro-vided for this purpose. For that matter there ts one system in which the alarm is started by the breaking of a wire. It is a more or less familiar fact that the chicken thief sometimes avoids all doors and windows, for fear of trap-guns and that sort of thing, and justs lifts a guns and that sort of thing, and justs lifts a board off the roof to get at the chickens, this being a handy way also because from there he can pick the chickens off the roost conveniently. But nowadays there runs across every board on the under side of the roof a light, easily broken wire, which is however sufficient to carry the required current. It is impossible to lift a board in the roof without breaking the slender wire, and, in this case, by means of suitable contrivances the breaking of the wire starts the bell to ringing.

contrivances the breaking of the wire starts the bell to ringing.

"The cost of a chicken coop burglar alarm for a single chicken coop, wire connections with the house and all, would be very small; a few dollars. The cost of setting up a complete burglar alarm system for a big chicken ranch, with many coops and buildings, would of course be considerable, amounting to \$300 or \$400, more or less.

PRESIDENTIAL LIGHTNING. Storm's Prank Nerved a Toung Law Student

"The lightning caused me to bet on the Presi dential election in 1860," said a Wall Street man who was called in as stakeholder a few days

"I'm not more superstitious than the average individual," continued the man, "although my act would indicate the contrary. I was a young man in a law office in a Kentucky town. My preceptor had pasted over his desk a poster containing the portraits of all of the candidates. Lincoln and Hamlin, Breckenridge and Lane. Douglass and Johnson and Bell and Everett The poster contained the platforms of the various parties. There was some uncertainty in that campaign. My preceptor was an enthusiastic Douglass man and wanted to bet all he had on his candidate. It was my first experience in a Presidential campaign, and I had

RAINS GIVE SOME RELIEF, BUT SITU-

ATION REMAINS SERIOUS. Districts Least Affected During the Worst of

the Famine Are Now Suffering From Lack of Rain-Famine Will Leave Many Problems for Lord Curzon's Government. LONDON, Sept. 29. - The famine in India drags through its pitiful course as slowly and unrelentingly as though there were no Transvaal or China on the map of the world. The eyes of the British public are averted, but the tragic spectacle of an enormous dependent population broken and discouraged by successive visitations of drought and disease remains. Elsewhere there has been so much to alarm a nation that people here have shirked the problem of India's misfortune. They know that the truth of the dimensions of the famine has not been told to them, chiefly because they do not wish to hear it. The distress has now abated a little, and an account of the improved condition at the end of August gives ground for expecting that the distress in not now entirely beyond some measure of relief treatment. But the abiding feature, even in this latest account, is the description of the state of things still to be faced.

In August there were copious and fairly general rains in the Indian provinces most afflicted previously with drought. Some di tricts have, indeed, been praying for a tem porary cessation of the deluge which had continued almost uninterruptedly for three weeks The result of this heavy rainfall is a decreas in the numbers on famine relief to the extent of no less than a million during the last three weeks. For the week ending July 28 the total on relief was 6,249,000 persons. 'The succeeding weekly totals were 6,281,000, 6,082,000, 5.685,000 and 5.304,000, respectively, this last figure being for the week ending Aug. 25. Thereore, even if the present rate of decrease -- 300,000 or so a week - continues to hold good the famine totals should soon decline to much more manage able dimensions than has been the case for many months past. The probability, moreover, is that during the next few weeks the rate of im provement will be even more rapid than at present. The bulk of the people now are being merely fed by Government until the crops sown soon after the app arance of the first rain have ripened. These crops are for the most part quick-growing ones, some, indee ripening within fort and of sowing.

But it must not be supposed that the whole of the five millions now shown in the returns will be independent of Government directly the harvest ripens. The traces of a great famine, such as that which for a year or more has devastated India, do not disappear quite so readily. Starvation, cholera, fevers, dysentery, and exposure have among them carried off many thousands exactly how many will perhaps never be known, but the total is very large. Thus, as a famine legacy, the Government will have to provide for a long time to come for whose breadwinners have perished. Then there are the old and broken natives, whose constitutions have been ruined by the hardships and exposure they have gone through, who must be cared for somehow.

Apart from these are the shirkers and loafers who, having once tested the fruits of gratuitous relief, will probably feel inclined to subsist In that manner for the remainder of their days. The authorities expect that this will prove a difficult question. In some parts of Indiathe southern Punjab and districts in the central provinces, for example - thousands of people have been almost entirely on gratuitous relief or light famine work for three years They have got so accustomed to their past ife and surroundings that it will be hard to get rid of them when the time comes. An officer on Lord Curzon's staff said, after returning from relief inspection in Gujerat, that there was marked apprehension that the people had become demoralized—that their pauperization was complete. Many showed no desire to leave the relief camps, even though good rains had fallen and seed for the sowing was offered

There are still more than one and a half millions of people on relief in Bombay, of whom heavy in places and very light in others. Still, the outlook is on the whole promising. Young crops are doing well, and cattle are everywhere improving. In the central provinces there has been almost too much rain in many districts. and the people are crying out for a break in the inces furnish some remarkable reading. There are some 2.225,000 on relief, of whom no fewer than 2,000,000 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. 780,000 of these being adults and 961,000 children relieved in kitchens. The policy obtaining in the central provinces is to send the natives break of the rains, and there maintain them gratuitously until the crops ripen. There is obtain an amount of shelter in their homes which they certainly would not get in the relief camps, and so outbreaks of disease and the devastating fevers which follow on prolonged exposure are avoided. On the other hand, the gratuitous feeding for many weeks on end of 2,000,000 people, many of them strong and wello-do, must have a disastrous effect on them. The rainfall up to the time of writing presents

some curious features. Most of the Bombay districts have received amounts considerably in excess of the normal, the Bombay Deccan showing more than 60 per cent : Kathiawar. 47 per cent: Khandesh, 30 per cent.; and other districts smaller amounts in excess. Scinde and the Baluchistan hills show defective rainfall; but in the case of this part of India the total fall is so slight that a single good shower will convert the deficiency into a surplus. The whole of the Punjab, except the western portion, shows either normal or excess rain, as whole, there has been a slight deficiency, but this is being rapidly made good by the heavy falls of the last few days. Thus we have the whole of the famine area with either a large excess of rain, or, at least, a fairly normal

To be set off against these improvements is the very serious deficiency in rainfall in the districts least affected by the famine of last year-in Bengal and the northwest prov-inces. Every district of the northwest show a considerable deficit, averaging 30 per cent. In every district, too, of Bengal and Assam, a lack of rain is reported. It is already contemplated that relief operations will have to be are doing their best to save the people, but the the ways of civilization and to acquire property carcely enough to make up a loin cloth. Of bedding they have none and the constant exposure to wet and damp, together with the ill effects resulting from sleeping night after night on the cold ground, brings on diseases from which the people, weakened by a year of severe famine, have not sufficient stamina to recover. The countryside is simply littered with corpses. It is the rule and not he exception for a dozen or more to be collected every morning round the mission stations, while a journey across country reveals the fact that thousands are dying every week from exposure and the after-effects of famine.

The British-Indian Government undertakes only the feeding and will not do anything in the way of providing clothes. These are supposed to come from the famine funds. But what are these among so many? All told, the amount still falls short of a million sterling, of which a little over a third has been subscribed by Great Britain. The population affected by the famine is more than 90,000,000. Enormous numbers of people have to be clothed and fed, cattle to be purchased, seed and a score of other things provided, all out

of this sum of less than a million. People in MARCONI ON A NEW TACK many of the native semi-autonomous States in British India have died by thousands through the apathy or criminal neglect of their rulers Lord Curzon, however, has plainly intimated to such native Princes that he will stand no nonsense. Another evil in native States recently dealt with by Lord Curzon is that which has to do with the growing tendency of native Princes to journey frequently to Europe. The Government of India, it is said, hold very strongly to the opinion that the first and paramount duty of a native Prince lies towards his own State and people. By the protection and authority of the supreme government he has a security of tenure in his exalted station superior to that enjoyed by rulers in any other country in the world, and one which is only sacrificed or imconcerned for its own position in the world paired by gross misconduct on his part or by some offence of exceptional gravity. In return for these advantages, the Government is entitled to demand that the ruler shall devote his best energies not to the pursuit of pleasure, nor to the cultivation of absentee interests or amusements, but to the welfare of his own subjets. It is most improbable that threatenings or even punishments will do much to make these absentee landlords more considerate for those dependent on them, especially as the Government has never adopted that procedure in their administration of a country much nearer England. The Anglo-Indian Government will, in fact, have to deal with the famine and its sequels in its own way. The recent imperial war expenditure is discouraging to the chances of an Indian grant from the national exchequer.

REINDEER IN ALASKA.

Some one has defined a crank as a person

The Government Is Making Them a Part of the Educational System.

who has expert knowledge on a subject that doesn't interest you. Dr. Sheldon Jackson is a crank on the subject of developing the resources of Alaska by reindeer culture. It is his hobby and a good deal of fun has been made at his expense, as is the case with most men who ride hobbies. But Dr. Jackson apparently has not been troubled by any adverse criticism or jokes at his expense. He has been backed by the Government, which has indorsed his work and given him money to carry it on. He is indorsed by the Bureau of Education, the head of which, Dr. W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education has firm faith in reindeer as a means of civilizing the natives of Alaska. A great deal has been written about Dr. Jackson's plans and hopes and the development thus far of the work that he originated; and the purpose here is not to retell an old story, but to show how reindeer are now being used in Alaska in the efforts to civilize and educate the natives The facts here given are taken mostly from recent writings of Dr. Harris on this subject.

It may be said in a preliminary way, however, that the Government will lose mone every time it puts any of its reindeer enterthousands of widows, orphans and old people prises into the hands of men who are not acquainted with the needs and peculiarities of the animals. A case in point was that of the 539 reindeer which were purchased by Dr. Jackson in 1898 in Sweden by order of the War Department, the purpose being to use them o carry supplies to the needy miners in the Yukon country. Dr. Jackson brought them safely over from Swedish Lapland and transported them safely across the continent, carrying tons of reindeer moss for their provender Arriving in Seattle, the enterprise was placed wholly in the hands of the military authorities Dr. Jackson insisted that the animals should be landed in Alaska far enough north to afford them a supply of moss for food across the ountry. The men in charge decided, however, to land at Skagway, and before they reached moss pasturage 300 of the animals had died of starvation, for they refused to eat the hay provided for them. It would have been money in the Government's pocket if the soldiers in charge of the enterprise had been compelled to commit to memory and ac upon some such statement as that which Consul-General Winslow of Stockholm sent to Wash ington a little later, in which he said:

The only food given to reindeer in Sweden is reindeer moss, a lichen highly prized by the Lapps, grow some 600,000 are on gratuitous relief. In the ling abundantly in the Arctic regions, almost as lux. extensive tracts in Lapland, making the landscape in summer look like a field of snow. The moss has a slightly acrid taste and it may be used for human food. Attempts have been made to feed hay, roots, grain. &c., to the reindeer, but they have not succeeded,

Dr. Jackson believes there is enough mospasturage in Alaska to support millions of deer. However this may be, it is certain that the moss is spread all over the tundra. It will be remembered that in the dead of winter, 1898, some 200 of these reindeer were driven hundreds of miles over the snow to Point Barrow, carrying supplies to the whalers who were supposed to be in danger of starvation. The expedition was a great success, though all the food the animals had on the way was the moss they dug

Dr. Harris says that in Alaskan educational work the object has been to encourage the natives to engage in industries and discontinue their ancient tribal customs. It was believed that if they could be taught to use the English language and trained to industry the growing white population would be able to use them in mining, transportation and the production of food. It was soon found, however, that to reach thousands of the primitive inhabitants is would be necessary to use very different educational methods from those usually employed. Dr. Jackson and Capt. Healy of the revenue cutter Bear suggested in 1891 the plan of intro ducing herds of reindeer and persuading the natives to take care of them. After four years of experiments it became certain that the idea would prove a success.

From year to year the Government has appropriated a few thousand dollars to purchase deer in Siberia, and a plan was gradually matured for the use of these animals in the scheme of education. The first step to be taken was to train the natives as herders and teamsters If they were interested in this work and became proficient in it a long step would be taken toward changing their condition from that of nomadic fishermen and hunters to dwellers in villages, with permanent employment that would support them and make them useful to the white population that is beginning to come to central and northwest Alaska. The other important object to be gained was to educate the natives in thrift, so that they will take can to preserve and accumulate reindeer.

It was found best to associate the missionary stations with this Government work. Thus far four herds of reindeer have been loaned started in parts of these provinces. But the to as many mission stations. These missions most deplorable plight of all is that of the Bhil are particularly helpful because they are able country. Piteous accounts continue to come to pick out natives for training who are noted from there The missionaries and officials for good character and are ambitious to learn mortality is, nevertheless, terrible. This mor- Twenty or thirty youths of the most promise tality has been considerably increased by the are selected from a village population of 300 arrival of the monsoon. The people possess only or more and are put in training as herdsmen a few threadbare rags in the way of clothes- and teamsters. The herds are loaned as apparatus for the instruction of the natives

and teamsters. The herds are loaned as apparatus for the instruction of the natives in the art of herding deer and training them to harness. It is stipulated that after three years the Government may take from the herd a number of deer in good condition equal to the original number supplied, the stations retaining the increase. Rewards are given to the native apprentices who are most zealous and faithful in their work. At the end of the first year they receive two reindeer and at the end of the second year, five more, as their personal property. Thus they are able to start herds of their own and they develop the sense of individual ownership of property, an idea that has not been developed in their tribal relations.

At last accounts, the Government was negotiating with six other stations on the Yukon and the coasts of the Arctic and Behring seas to loan them herds on the same conditions. There are at present thirty-eight missionary stations in Alaska and at all but thirteen of fodder. It is desired to establish these reindeer stations at all the missionary centres throughout the territory wherever the conditions favor breeding and rearing the animals. The thirteen stations where the animals cannot be reared are in the Juneau, Sitka, Fort Wrangel and neighboring districts, and Commissioner Harris deems it important to establish a large herd as near this region as possible and thus forward in all parts of Alaska the work of developing its resources by reindeer oulture.

HE BRINGS WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY A STEP NEARER PERFECTION. The Inventor Discards Tall Poles in the Opera-

tion of His System and Uses Cylinders of Moderate Height-Better Results and Appliances More Adaptable to Common Use Probably the most important step in the advance of wireless telegraphy toward practical use is that which has just been made by Maroni. The old system-for it may be called old now that an entirely new one has replaced it consisted of an elaborate set of instruments and apparatus, the chief external evidence of which was an aerial wire suspended from a tail mast. It was in the height of the mast that the virtue of the system was supposed to exist. Marconi discovered early in his careerand yet only a few years ago that if he doubled the height of his mast he could send messages four times as far. It was the so-called law of squares for ether wave effect. For example he found that he could telegraph 100 miles it his aerial wires were 150 feet high at the termi nals. It was easy to compute the height required for crossing the Atlantic with ether waves-a wire suspended 750 feet above the ransmitting station would, according to the calculation, send a message 2,500 miles-and extravagant predictions were made, based upon the possibility of establishing communication between the Eiffel Tower in Paris and a huge structure in New York or Washington Some thought that, if the average height of the two aerial wires were 750 feet, messages could be exchanged. But, alas for scientific prediction that is not based on experiment. No one tried the proposed plan, not even Marconi, who succeeded in proving the law of squares in every

that Marconi was not one of those who made the Atlantic crossing prediction. Now all this has been changed. The serial wire and the tall masts are done away with, just as static electricity was replaced by chemical electricity and chemical by electro-magnetic. Marconi has already telegraphed sixty miles with a cylinder four feet high instead of a mast and wire 125 feet high

attempt he made, but it may have been noticed

As long as last January he began to work on the cylinder plan. The experiments began in his laboratory at Poole Harbor, first from room to room with receivers only one one-thousandth part as sensitive as the one he used for regular work between France and England: then he took his apparatus out of doors and, for several weeks along the beach, he went through hundreds of experiments, gradually approximating the proper relation between receiver and transnitter, until perfect messages were finally sent eross to the Isle of Wight, eighteen miles away. He did not tell outsiders of this suc cess, because he felt he must first perfect his apparatus and plans, and that the new system was better than the old.

In essential arrangement and working, the clinders plan is not greatly different from that of the aerial wire. The transmitting instruments are practically the same, a battery induction coil, earth wire, &c., the only change in this part of the apparatus being the introduction of resistance coils where needed and an arrangement for sending "tuned" messages. But on the outside of the room which contains these nothing is to be seen. The cylinder stands close at hand, upon a table, it may be insulated from any earth connection except through the transmitting instruments when in action. The receiving station presents the same appearance; indeed, the stations are all alike, being fitted to send and receive messages in the same room. When a message is being received, the wire leading to the cylinder is disconnected from the transmitter and attached to the receiver. This arrangement is used of course only when a single installation is in operation. With the apparatus for differentiating between messages which Marconi has worked out a number of installations may be working together in the same room or building, and then it is possible to send and receive ust as many different sets of messages as there are instruments differing in capacity. But this is a further step, and just now Marconi is busy with the perfecting of the cylinder plan on one installation.

Just how the messages are sent is more of a puzzle now than ever. Formerly no one bled the statement that other waves conthis is being questioned. Why not earth currents? suggest some, and the inquiry is not tension impulses might easily disturb the electric equilibrium of the earth, it would seem, and the very sensitive receiver in electric harmony so to speak, with the transmitter would record this disturbance just as it occurs—in long or short impulses, or in dots and dashes as they appear on the recording instrument. Of course, if this be true, any properly arranged receiver can take the message provided it is within range, but the same fact is evident in the old system. That difficulty is obviated, however, by the syntonic apparatus, which makes it impossible for a receiver not exactly in tune with the transmitter to receive th messages sent. One may judge of the difficulty realizes that these high tension vibrations vary from millions of vibrations to trillions a second

It is interesting to note that 400,000,000,000 vibrations in the ether a second produce light and some trillions a second produce the X-ray To the theory that this wireless telegraphy is carried on through the earth, that is, by disturbing the earth's electric equilibrium, the objection arises that such disturbance would affect near-at-hand wire or cable telegraph systems, dynamo power houses and all sorts of electric operations. Not so, necessarily. Sound waves and light waves de not conflic because their rates of vibration are different These high-tension vibrations of millions a second should not disturb vibrations which are lower, as are telephone vibrations, for example, or light vibrations, which are higher. It is true that any disturbance of the earth's electric equilibrium will to an extent affect electric operations on the earth's surface but this is not a large factor and the difficulties can probably be easily overcome. But it is not best to be too sure as to the nature

of the operation. Marconi has given months of thought and experiment to just this problem and it is doubtful if he even is sure of what the force really is. Tesla has made many predictions in connection with transmitting electric power in just this way. His plan meant simply that he would kick the earth electrically, and the power put into the blow could be picked up anywhere on the surface of the earth if the proper detecting and collecting apparatus was sed. A Frenchman has recently come forward with another plan quite similar, and the French Government is trying to carry out his ideas. He proposes to test the earth's surface at a large number of places in France and find spots equal in electric capacity, or by digging down far enough in the necessary places reduce all these spots to an equal capacity. Then a disturbance

spots to an equal capacity. Then a disturbance at any one will be noticeable at all of the others. It is a simple matter, then, to create a disturbance of short and long duration as desired and thus reproduce the Morse code. The difficulties here are also very great. A rainstorm, for example, in one section of the country would be sure to change the electric capacity of the earth in that neighborhood.

It is with relief, then, that we turn to a plan such as Marconi's, which seems applicable to all conditions. Whether it works through the ether in the earth or by a disturbance of electric equilibrium in the earth does not matter so much as the fact that results are actually obtained. "It works," says Marconi, "and that is enough."

Scarcity of Ash Barrels in Brooklyn.

There is a great scarcity of barrels in Brook yn. Ever since the people began coming back from their vacations the grocers have been overrun with requests for old barrels. During the summer most of the families who were away lost their ash barrels-which are still used instead of ash cans in Brooklyn—and on their re-turn there was a rush to get new ones. Ordi-narily a request for a barrel from the grocer re-sults in one being sent around right away with-out charge, but this year the demand so ex-ceeded the supply that the grocers were obliged to buy old barrels to supply their customers. The price has been 20 cents apleon.

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF THINGS. Japanese Diplomacy.

From the London King

situation.

It was at the time of the exhibition in 1867. Japanese embassy went to Paris to treat for three free ports in France, in return for which France was to have three in Japan. The negotiations proved short and amiable. 'Make your choice," said Japan, 'we will choose

afterward." The Minister of Foreign Affairs selected Yokohama

Yeddo and Hang-Yang. The embassy made no objection; they simply smiled and went on their way. Some time afterward Japan sent word that the three ports mentioned were agreed to, and in return Japan

desired Havre, Marseilles and Southampton. This last name gave the French officials fits. They never laughed so much before, and certainly never since. Southampton a French port! No, it was too good. Gently, but unmistakably, they explained the

"Why, Southampton is in England," they replied. "We know that," came the cool response, "but then Hang Yang is in Corea.

Whereupon the French officials collapsed.

Suspicion Regarding Those Francs. From the Galveston Daily News. Officials, public or semi public, come in for their share of criticism, but that heard on a street car a morning or two ago beats the record since the flood. The driver and an Italian were cursing and abusing the management of the Relief Committee in the most rtistle Billingsgate, using the whole dictionary of profanity and coining a few words and phrases all their own. Finally to wind up the conversation and bring a fitting climax to it all, the Italian was heard

'Pres'dent Loubay, the Pres'dent o' France, he giva twent' thousa' franc for de flood suf. Whata go wi' de mon? Ha' you see a de franc in a Galves-ton? I

The Court's View of its Own Lenty.

From the Kansas City Star.

Judge Hamilton Finney, who is visiting friends in Kansas City, was formerly Police Judge here, and he has by long odds the time record for holding a case under advisement. Twenty years is the time and the case is not decided yet.

It was when Judge Guinotte was a young law student in the office of Tichenor & Warner. He had a case in one of the Justices' courts one day, which had been postponed on two or three occasions. On this particular day he demanded a trial. The lawyer on the other side, a man very unpopular with all Judges and attorneys, grew abusive. Then he became so insulting that young Guinotte's French blood boiled over and he threw a heavy linkstand at the man. striking him on the bedd. The result was that Guinotte was arreated for disturbing the peace. He went before Judge Finney the next morning in police court. "Are you guilty or not guilty?" asked the Judge. "Guilty," answered Mr. Guinotte.

Ordinarily that would settle a case. The Judge is supposed to nave no alternative except to punish. Ludge Finney never in the social calendar. When a Chinaman makes up his mid to do a thing handsonnely he generally goes to the limit. The opinm farmer always makes his dinner, which is a sort of farewell to his brief reign of Czar of the opium smokers, something to be remembered by his white friends. Indeed, he lays aside a large sum of money, from \$20,000 to \$25,000, for the banquet, and always redaining of the year.

A week before the close of his term of office the farmer sends out his invitations. These are always nakes his dinner, which is a sort of farewell to his brief reign of Czar of the opium smokers, something to be remembered by his white friends. Indeed, he lays aside a large sum of money, from \$20,000 to \$25,000, for the banquet, and always erbal, delivered to the lucky recipient by a shroff, a polite native clerk, who comes to your cloor with a smile and a bow, clad in a long blue gown reaching to his heels, and tells you that his m

Sympathy Not What Was Wanted. From the Chicago Daily News.

A native of the mountain district of Kentucky had occasion to go on a journey recently, and, before starting, took out an accident policy. He chanced to be one of the victims of a railway collision, and the next morning his widow, armed with a newspaper report in which his name was mentioned among the killed, called on the agent of the insurance company and demanded the money.

"But, madam," said the agent, "we will have to have more definite proof before we can pay your

"More proof!" exclaimed the bereaved woman.

"More proof!" exclaimed the bereaved woman.
"Why he's dead'rn a door nail, I reckon."
"Possibly, my dear madam, "answered the polite
agent, "and I'm very sorry."
"Sorry! You are sorry, are you?"
"I certainly am, madam. I sincerely sympathize
with you in your sad affliction."
"But hain't you goin' to give me the money what's
comin' to me?"
"Not to-day. Your claim will have to be investigated first.
"That's just like a good-fer-nothin' man," angrily gated first."

"That's just like a good-fer-nothin' man," angrily retorted the bereaved woman. "You all are mighty perlite bout things so long as they hain't costin' you nothin'. but the minnet a poor, lone female does git a chance to git holt of a lettle spendin' money, you got the gall to say you're sorry."

And the indignant female slammed the door.

From the Chicago Tribune. "I will not attempt to evade your question, Mr. Spoonamore," the young woman said, with heightened color. "While we may not be suited to each other in all respects, it is due to say that I would marry you as willingly as anybody I know."
"You fill me with-"

"Walt a moment, please. You know, do you not, that I am the owner of several building lots away out near Linkson Park?" "Yes, but surely you do not -"

"Yes, but surely you do not—"
"Certainly not, Mr. Spoonamore. I do not mean to inlimate that you are actuated by mercenary motives. Far from it. You know I am not rich. You are aware, I presume, that all the property I can call my own consist of those lots."

"I know, dear girl, but that doesn't make the slightest dif—" I am sure of it, but it was not of that I was about to speak. It has cost me all I have been able to save to pay taxes and special assessments on those lots. The city owes me rebates amounting to hundreds of dollars. Now. Mr. Spoonamore, I cannot become any man's wife without a bridal trousseau, and I cannot afford one now. I will be your wife when I receive the money due me from the citypas rebates on those lots, and not before."

With a howl of despair the baffied lover fied into the night. He was still young, but he couldn't wait forever.

HONG KONG'S DOPE FARMER

THE BIG DINNER WITH WHICH HE RETIRES FROM OFFICE.

An Anomalous Position That Lasts but One Year and Makes Its Holder Rich-Some Curlous Features of the Sumptuous Feast.

From the Chicago Times-Herald In the colony of Hong Kong there is a Chinanan who, while his brief reign lasts, is spoken by the quarter of a million of his fell w untrymen on the island with bated breath. To hese Celestials, subjects of Queen Victoria, the imperor of China is not nearly so great a man the "opium farmer," and the Queen herself, ompared with "his mightiness of the as-s. in their eyes only a far-away sovereign, not alf so imposing.

In order to regulate to some extent the im-

portation of opium into Hong Kong and to sim-

plify the collection of duties the British Government several years ago decided to place the whole business in the hands of one man. Realizing, however, the tremendous and arbitrary power that could be wielded by a single indevidual in such a position, it was also decided that the office should only be held one year, and that no person should be allowed to keep it for more than a single term. So it was announced that the Government was prepared to accept bids for the privilege.

Since that time the selection of an "opium farmer," as he is called, has become an annual event. The highest bid generally ranges from 600,000 to 800,000 taels, according to the prospects of the poppy crop for the year and the condition of the market. The successful applicant is duly gazetted in his position, and he is given the assistance of a fleet of a dozen swift Government customs vessels to protect, his interests. He birment events. ment several years ago decided to place the wift Government customs vessels to protect is interests. He himself employs several must be guard his business against smugglers, at he must only use these boats for the purpose of obtaining information. If he secures

twent' thousa' franc for de flood suf. Whata go wi'
de mon? Har you see a de franc in-a Galves-ton' I
see a not-a one sing' damn franc. Some-abody he
put a in-a de pocket and say not a damn word a
'bout it-a."

His Slanderer Was There.

From London Tit. Bits.

On one occasion, while addressing a meeting. Mr.
Gladstone was repeatedly interrupted by an individual who alternated loud guffaws with the imitation of a dog's howls. The speaker inquired the name of
this fellow and was told that he was a certain John
Larf.

"Mr. Larf." he said, taising his voice, "our friend
Goldsmith clearly had you in view when he said:

"The watch-dog's voice that bay'd the whispering wind.

And the loud Larf that spoke the vacant mind."

"He said that, did he?" cried Larf, as he turned found and struck a little man who was in the crowd a severe blow over the head. And it was only after a severe blow over the head. And it was only af

guage that Mr. Larf was convinced that the man he had assaulted and whose name was Goldsmith was not the gentleman referred to by Mr. Gladstone.

The Court's View of Its Own Lenty.

From the Kansas City Star.

Judge Hamilton Finney, who is visiting friends for ansas City, was formerly and the solution of the Hong Kong year. The color of the though natural pride keeps them from openly acknowledging the white people of Hong Kong look on this uniform of the colors.

When a Chical calendar.

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before Judge Finney the next morating in police rount.

"Are you guilty or not guilty" asked the Judge's supposed to have no alternative except to punts, Judge Finney that would settle a case. The Judge is supposed to have no alternative except to punts, Judge Finney seowied.

Young man." he said, "this is a case of a most agravated assault. You actually struck this man with an inisistand. It's so serious Fill take the matter under advisement."

Ille still has it under advisement, and the reason can be understood from the conversation between the Judge and Mr. Tichnen after court had adjourned on the same day of the trial.

"You took Guitnotte's case under advisement" asked Mr. Tichnen after court had adjourned on the same day of the trial.

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"You are men to the same day of the trial the service of the county of the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same day of the trial the service of the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor entry need to the same trial the ground floor en

preserves of all sorts, mangoose, mangostines, paradise fruit and dozens of wonderful Chinese puddings.

There is no menu card and no sequence of courses. You just pick out what you like and tackle it, irrespective of what your neighbor is eating and regardless of whether you begin with dessert or end with soup. The dishes in which these foods are served are the most magnifecent and costly samples of Chinese ware and are intended as gifts for the guests. When the dinner is over you can select what you please from among them. If you go away early enough you are generally wise enough to do this. If you stay till things begin to get warm you are apt to forget all about such a prosaic thing as dishes.

When midnight comes and the host, the Governor and the Chief Justice have discreetly retired, the singing, jubilating and toasting begin in earnest. As daybreak approaches the faithful ricksha men who have been kicking their bare heels on the brick roads for several hours, begin to think deep boiling-oil thoughts about the foreign devils inside who are yelling "Annie Rooney." "We Won't Go Home Till Morning." "Auld Lang Syne" and other incantations to their gods.

IN A HORSESHOEING PARLOR.

No Forge Is Used.

A blacksmith's shop without a forge seems A blacksmith's shop without a forge seems a novelty, indeed, but there are two at least in New York. In these shops there is applied a patent horseshoe made of a special steel which is soft enough to permit of its being hammered and shaped, as far as may be necessary, without heating. There are anvils here, and hammers are used, so that these time-honored accessories of the blacksmith's shop still remain here, but there is no fire, no bellows with a grimy, swarthy, stalwart blacksmith swaying on the handle with one hand while he gently pokes the burning coal in the forge with the other. There is no smoke here and no flying sparks, nor is there the long familier odor of the burning hoof when the hot shoe is laid against it. These places are horseshoeing parlors.

One of those intown occupies a long room that was designed for a store in a building that stands on a corner. The shop proper, occupying the greater part of the space, opened on the side street. The office, or reception room, of the horseshoeing parlor at the front end of the store, occuries a square of space, of the width of the building and running back about twenty feet, where an office railing is placed, dividing the reception room from the blacksmith shop.

On the floor of the office or reception room there is a two-hundred-dollar rug; there are confortable chairs about, for visitors or for